LAKE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

FALL 2024

off the SHELF

PHYLLIS FOX MEMORIAL WRITING & BOOKMARK CONTEST

SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS

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Modified Hours Pilot
Banned Books Week
Library/Museum Partnership
...AND MORE!

Letter from the Director: Modified Hours Pilot

At the Lake Bluff Library Board Meeting held June 18, 2024, Trustees voted to extend the existing Hours Pilot and further modify the schedule of building hours. The change took effect July 1 and will last through September 30, 2024. This was a very difficult decision for the Library to make, as the Board and I would like to focus on increasing utilization of Library services in-building. However, based on very low building usage in the evenings and continued staffing challenges, the Board voted to adjust hours in accordance with usage data and extend the pilot for another three months.

The proposal considered by the Board to further reduce operating hours was informed by 6 months of data: quantitative and qualitative monthly reports presented at Board meetings; patron comments; building traffic statistics; an Hours Pilot Survey; quantifying available staffing hours; and more. Usage data indicated a lower average visitor count on Tuesday and Thursday evenings compared to Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The Library continues to work towards sustainable solutions for operations, so that we can be good stewards of the public funding it receives. In discussing this topic during the June Board meeting, one of the data points I shared with the Trustees was the high rate of turnover Lake Bluff Library continues to experience. Staffed predominantly by part time workers, Lake Bluff Library has a long history of high turnover predating my tenure. This has put considerable strain on operations and service. The goal of this modified pilot is to work towards regaining operational stability.

Modified Library Hours Pilot
through 9/30/2024

MONDAY
10am - 6pm

TUESDAY
10am - 6pm

WEDNESDAY
10am - 6pm

THURSDAY
10am - 8pm

FRIDAY
10am - 5pm

SATURDAY
10am - 5pm

SUNDAY
Closed

What the Board and I heard loud and clear during the pilot was that Lake Bluff wants the return of Sunday and evening hours to support working families. Even though this newly modified schedule of hours does not yet address this directly, the Board and I want the community to know we are actively exploring pathways to be responsive to this feedback and add hours back to the Library's schedule, with the hope that operational improvements can be made before the end of 2024. In order to make that happen, the Board faces some difficult financial decisions.

I would like to acknowledge the seven Lake Bluff Library Trustees who volunteer their time and dedication to serving the Library and the community. They had tough decisions to make recently and will have more challenges ahead to ensure the longevity of the Library. Trustees play a unique advocacy role as elected officials trying to balance competing needs of their communities, while knowing that libraries do not have many opportunities to increase revenue. I am grateful for their public service. I am confident the Board's decision to modify hours will help the organization stabilize in the short term, so that the Library can better serve the needs of the Lake Bluff community long term.

Thank you for your valuable feedback and outpouring of support during the Hours Pilot. It's clear Lake Bluff residents value reading, learning, literacy, and access to their library. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months.

Renee Grassi, Library Director

Run for Library Board Trustee!

Do you love Lake Bluff Library? Are you motivated by public service and want to support the Lake Bluff community? Then, we need you to run for office as an elected Library Board Trustee! As members of a Library Board, Trustees work together to carry out governing and advisory roles for the organization. You will participate in thoughtful and strategic discussions about opportunities and challenges with your fellow Board members. You will also collaborate with the Board to develop plans for the organization's short- and long- term health and goals. To learn more, visit **VoteLakeBluff.org**.

National Voter Registration Day 9/17 from 3 - 5pm

Register to vote at the Library! In collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, the Library recognizes National Voter Registration Day and invites adults 18 and older to register or update an existing registration. Two forms of identification are required, both that show current name, with one displaying current address.

Banned Books Week | 9/22 - 9/28

Visit the Library September 23 - 28 for Banned Books Week! Browse displays of banned books, gather informational resources, and enter a raffle for a chance to win a free banned book of your choice. #FreePeopleReadFreely

Spotlight Resource: Reserve the Library's Public Meeting Space

Reserve the Library's Meeting Room for your next book group, association meeting, or club meetup. Residents of 60044 can reserve the Library's Spruth Room for meetings that are free and open to the public. Located on the lower level of the building, the Spruth Room can accommodate up to 30 people. To make a reservation and learn more, visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/MeetingRoom**.

A message from the Friends of Lake Bluff Library

Do you love Lake Bluff Library? Consider supporting the Friends of Lake Bluff Library, a local non-profit volunteer organization that raises funds to support the Library.

Become a Friend

The Friends meet quarterly to discuss how to support the Library and to vote on funded projects. New members are always welcome.

Buy a Brick

Honor a loved one with an engraved brick in the brick garden at the Library entrance.

Donate to the Friends

Your generous donations directly contribute to Library events and improvements.

For more information, visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/Friends.**

Afternoon Book Club
9/17, 10/15, 11/19 at 2:30pm
Join Carol at the Library for an insightful monthly book discussion series:

September - *This Other Eden* by Paul Harding
October - *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay
November - *Wild and Distant Seas* by Tara Karr Roberts

An Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine
9/19 at 6pm R
Hear an engaging presentation from Educator Yvonne Wolf, who will provide background on the ancient practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine and its main principles. Wolf will relate this ancient study to Western traditions and present 10 roots and herbs useful in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Trivia Night
@ Lake Bluff Brewing Company
16 E. Scranton Ave., LB
10/7 at 7pm R
Register your team of up to 6 peple for a night of Trivia at LB Brewing Co. Registration opens at 10am one week before the event.

Being Imperfect with Erika Sánchez
10/9 at 7pm R V
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Illinois Libraries Present and Erika Sánchez, award-winning author of *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*. She will be joined in conversation by Cynthia Pelayo.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Paint and Steep
10/17 4 - 6pm
Ages 18+ R
Join Susie Speck as she presents a step-by-step acrylic painting workshop. Supplies will be provided, and tea will be served. Music will ac-

Native and Indigenous Representation: A Library and Museum Partnership

No One Ever Sees Indians: Native Americans in Media
10/5 at 2pm R
Learn from Northern Arapaho filmmaker, artist, writer, and media educator Ernest M. Whiteman III about current and historical depictions of Native peoples. Discuss issues in the media, and analyze how these representations inform audiences' perceptions. Reflect on the ideology of lived experience, ownership of culture, and authorship of expertise of Native American representations in media. Funded by Illinois Humanities' Road Scholars Speakers Bureau Grant. *Sponsored by the Lake Bluff History Museum and presented in partnership with Lake Bluff Library.*

Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois History | 11/16 at 2pm R
Award-winning Ojibwa author and speaker Kim Sigafus McIver presents an interactive hands-on history of Natives in Illinois with a focus on Native women, or what was considered "The Hidden Half." Dressed in her native regalia, Kim will teach about the role women played within the family unit and explore the significance of Native women, such as Singing Bird (Blackhawk's wife) and Hononegah.

LAKE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

LAKE BLUFF HISTORY MUSEUM

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company the session to inspire creativity; please inform the instructor if you are sensitive to sound.

Garden Task Force
10/23, 11/13 at 4pm
All Ages
Help the Library prepare the Learning Garden for winter! Work as a team to clear plants, insert cold weather crops, and lay down mulch for the winter season. If you are a seasoned gardener, new to gardening, or want to lend a hand, join this outdoors community activity and contribute to enhancing our local green space. *Sponsored by Davey Tree Expert Company.*

Taylor Swift's Literary Lyrics
11/14 at 7pm
Ages 12+ R V
Explore themes and literary references behind the music of one of the biggest pop stars in the world, Taylor Swift. Go on a journey through Taylor's discography, which includes nods to literary works and authors such as *The Great Gatsby*, Pablo Neruda, Robert Frost, Sylvia Plath, Emily Dickinson, and more.

Holiday Tips and Tricks with Chef Art Smith
11/20 at 7pm R V
Bring some culinary inspiration into your holiday season with Chef Art Smith. Learn about his culinary journey as Oprah Winfrey's personal chef and two-time James Beard Foundation award winner.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Volunteer at the Library!

Teens are invited to submit a volunteer application through the Library's website, and Library staff will send a calendar of opportunities. Visit the Teen Page on the website for more information.

Tween and Teen Crafts: Create Your Own Self-Portrait
9/12 at 4pm
Ages 9 – 18 R
Create a self-portrait with Cassandra Anzelone from Lake Bluff's Art Impact Project. This fun and engaging experience will inspire teens to be expressive and explore their own creative identities. Presented by Art Impact, a local nonprofit with a focus on emotional wellness and self-expression through art.

Movie Night: Hocus Pocus at Blair Park
355 W. Washington Ave., LB
10/18 at 7:30pm | All Ages
Get ready for a spellbindingly fun evening at the Lake Bluff Library and Lake Bluff Park District's free family movie night! Join us at Blair Park Sledding Hill, for a bewitching celebration with a movie under the stars. *This program is sponsored by the Friends of Lake Bluff Library.*

Raise Your Voice with Jason Reynolds
10/22 at 7pm R V
Welcome Jason Reynolds, #1 New York Times bestselling author, advocate, mentor, and 2020 - 2022 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. The recipient of a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, a Carnegie Medal, an NAACP Image Award, and multiple Coretta Scott King honors, Reynolds' beloved and award-winning titles include *Stamped* with Ibram X. Kendi, *Stuntboy*, the Track series (*Ghost, Patina, Sunny,* and *Lu*), *Miles Morales*, *All American Boys* with Brendan Kiely, and *When I Was the Greatest*.

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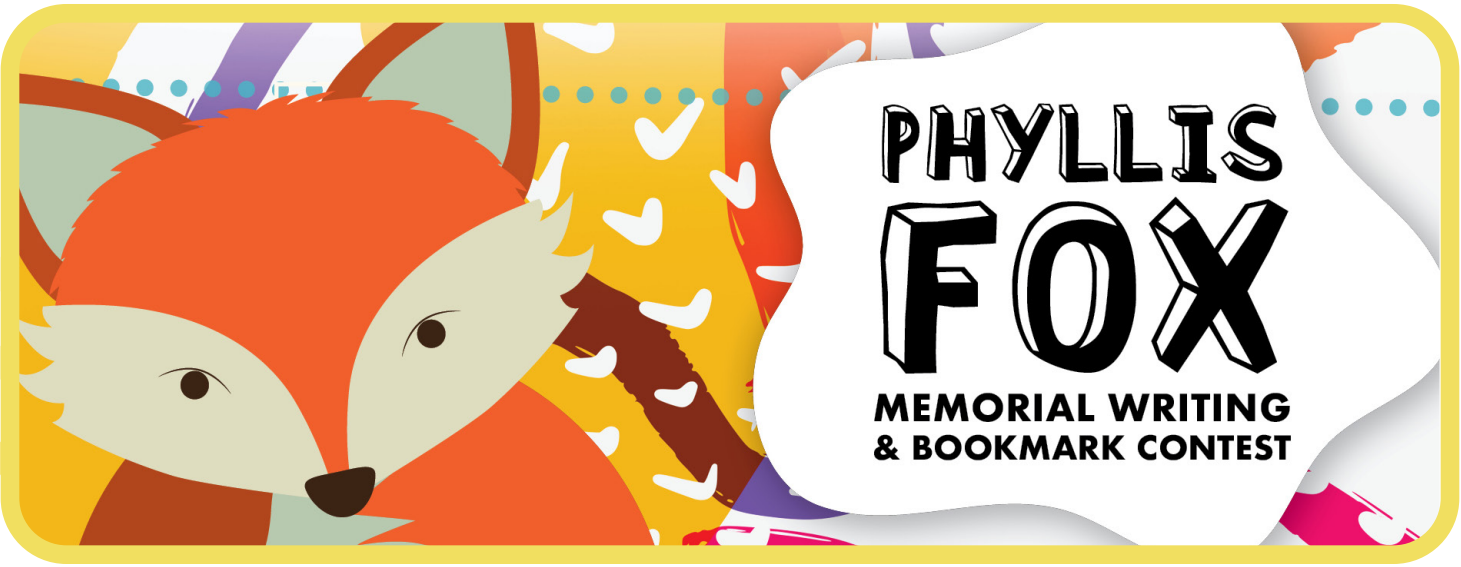

Phyllis Fox Memorial Writing and Bookmark Contest
11/1 - 11/30 | Ages 5 – 13

Sharpen your pencils, prepare your paper: it's time for the 38th annual writing contest and the 35th bookmark design contest! For more information or to download submission forms, please visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/WritingContest**.

WRITING CONTEST: Children in grades K – 8 can submit a short story or poem on any subject they wish. First place winners will receive a copy of the 2024 Phyllis Fox Contest Winners Book.

BOOKMARK DESIGN CONTEST: Children in grades K – 8 can design a bookmark. First place winners will receive 50 professionally printed copies of their bookmark.

Upload your submission online at **LakeBluffLibrary.org/WritingContest** or email submissions directly to **childrensdept@lakeblufflibrary.org.**

Winners for both contests will be announced December 21.

Lego Drop-in
9/4, 10/2, 11/6 at 2 – 5pm
Ages 6 – 11
Drop in and play with Legos to unleash creativity through the endless possibilities of building and storytelling.

Grab & Go Crafts
9/6 – 11/29
Ages 2 – 12
Pop into the Library and grab a craft to go! Every week a new craft will be available starting on Fridays. While supplies last.

Drop-in Messy Crafts
9/7, 10/5, 11/2 at 11am
Ages 2 – 12
Bring your child in for some messy fun at the library, and we'll handle the clean-up! Younger children will need the assistance of an adult.

Baby & Me
9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15 at 10:30 – 11am
Ages 0 – 2 with an Adult
Join us with your littlest ones for this laid-back program. Children will listen to a short story, then socialize, play with age appropriate toys, and listen to music. Chat with other grown-ups while the kids play.

Storytime: Together Time
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17 at 10:30 – 11am
Ages 2+ with an Adult
Children and their adults can join us for stories, songs, and fingerplays.

Tween and Teen Crafts: Create Your Own Self-Portrait
9/12 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 18 R
Create a self-portrait with Cassandra Anzelone from Lake Bluff's Art Impact Project. This fun and engaging experience will inspire teens

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to be expressive and explore their own creative identities. Presented by Art Impact, a local nonprofit with a focus on emotional wellness and self-expression through art.

Sensory Storytime
9/14, 10/12, 11/9 at 10:30am
Ages 3+ with an Adult
Join us for an inclusive and interactive storytime, sensory play, songs, and lots of fun! In an effort to respect different sensory sensitivities, space will be limited; however, drop-ins will be accommodated if the session is not full.

Chess Club
9/21, 10/19, 11/16 at 1pm
Ages 6 – 12 R
Whether you are new to chess, or seeking to hone your techniques, Mark Hamilton will provide chess guidance to help you improve your game.

K9 Reading Buddies
10/21, 11/18 at 4pm
Ages 6 – 11 R
Foster a love for reading and build confidence in literacy skills with K9 Reading Buddies! Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute session to read aloud to a trained therapy dog. *This program is sponsored by the Friends of Lake Bluff Library.*

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1,000 books before kindergarten

Ongoing | Ages 0 – 6 R
Kick-start the new season with a new reading goal and sign up for the Library's free 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. This early literacy program helps children build a love of reading and libraries. For more information about how to register your child and participate, stop by the Library or visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/1000Books.**

Illinois Libraries Present

Raise Your Voice with Jason Reynolds
10/22 at 7pm R V
Welcome Jason Reynolds, #1 New York Times bestselling author, advocate, mentor, and 2020 - 2022 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. The recipient of a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, a Carnegie Medal, an NAACP Image Award, and multiple Coretta Scott King honors, Reynolds' beloved and award-winning titles include *Stamped* with Ibram X. Kendi, *Stuntboy*, the Track series (*Ghost, Patina, Sunny,* and *Lu*), *Miles Morales*, *All American Boys* with Brendan Kiely, and *When I Was the Greatest*.

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CONTACT US

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@LakeBluffPublicLibrary

ADMINISTRATION

Renee Grassi, *Library Director*
rgrassi@lakeblufflibrary.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bonnie Shaul, *President*
Janie Jerch, *Vice President*
Bill Hayes, *Treasurer*
Alexandra Friedeman, *Secretary*
Jenny Graziano
Sandy Jardine
Matt Zaute

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held in person at the Library in the Spruth Room and streamed live on Zoom.

Tuesday, 9/17 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, 10/15 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, 11/19 at 7:00pm

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports capital improvements at the Library.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends are a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the Library.

UPCOMING FRIENDS MEETINGS

Saturday, 9/21 at 11:00am
Saturday, 10/19 at 11:00am

STATEMENT ON PROGRAMMING

All Library programs are free of charge and open to everyone. You do not need a Library card to attend a program. Library programs are presented to offer differing viewpoints, and are not intended as endorsement by the Library of views expressed by, or actions suggested by, individual speakers or groups.

PHOTO USE POLICY

The Lake Bluff Public Library reserves the right to use photos and/or audio/video recordings taken at the Library or at a Library-sponsored event for publicity purposes. Please see our Photo Use policy for more information.

Lake Bluff Public Library
123 E. Scranton Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

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